

HOUSE RESOLUTION 7 of the First Extraordinary Session
By Brooks

A RESOLUTION to honor and celebrate "Safe Kids Day on the Hill" on March 31, 1999.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the elected representatives of the state of Tennessee should pause to pay tribute to those exemplary organizations and their individual members, who have given unselfishly of themselves, their time and their talents to perpetuate the public good; and

WHEREAS, Safe Kids of Tennessee is one such remarkable public service organization, a voice of integrity in the prevention of unintentional injuries to children; and

WHEREAS, on Wednesday, March 31, 1999, the friends of Safe Kids of Tennessee will gather in Legislative Plaza to celebrate the "Safe Kids Day on the Hill"; and

WHEREAS, "Safe Kids Day on the Hill" is a time to promote the need for a primary seat belt law for adults as a preventive measure for injuries inflicted upon children because of misuse of seatbelts; and

WHEREAS, Safe Kids of Tennessee has its headquarters at LeBonheur Children's Medical Center in Memphis; and

WHEREAS, it is part of a national campaign dedicated to the prevention of unintentional injuries to children; and

WHEREAS, a primary seat belt law for adults is an important issue for Safe Kids, because their research shows that adult seat belt use is the single strongest predictor of child safety seat and seat belt use; and

WHEREAS, another valid reason for a primary seat belt law requiring adults to protect their children, is that drivers who buckle up themselves are three times more likely to buckle up their kids; and

WHEREAS, despite the existence of primary child laws in the majority of states in this country, six out of ten children killed in crashes died because they were not properly secured with child safety seats or seat belts; and

WHEREAS, research by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration shows that when a driver is buckled, restraint use for children is 87% and when a driver is unbuckled, restraint use for children is 24%; and

WHEREAS, primary seat belt laws for adults have been proven to work in other states; when Louisiana passed a primary seat belt law in 1995, child safety seat and seat belt use increased from 45% to 82% in just two years--with no change to the child passenger safety law; and

WHEREAS, "Safe Kids Day on the Hill" serves the indispensable role of encouraging both the young and the old to practice child safety seat and seat belt use; and

WHEREAS, Safe Kids of Tennessee offers a unique opportunity to influence and raise awareness of the importance of valuing, recognizing, and respecting child safety; and

WHEREAS, Safe Kids is the perfect example of an organization totally committed to protecting the well-being of this state's most precious resource—our children; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, That we hereby honor and recognize Safe Kids of Tennessee and its "Safe Kids Day on the Hill" for its unprecedented devotion to child safety, and salute its commitment to establishing a primary seat belt law for adults.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.

